

# **New Prison Program Strengthens Families and Promotes Public Safety**

## **Media Contact:**

Karen Cantou Grubbs

Indiana Department of Correction

Communications Chief

(317) 232-5780 (office)

(317) 903-7045 (cell)

[kgrubbs@doc.IN.gov](mailto:kgrubbs@doc.IN.gov)

"The program promotes family values, and helps develop offenders' communication and problem-solving skills, which in turn will build a stronger family support base and improve the chances for successful re-entry."

J. David Donahue.

Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction

Pendleton, IN - (August 23, 2007) Beginning August 25, 2007, the Correctional Industrial Facility will host its first weekend for the Preventative Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP). This novel grant funded program is designed to strengthen the ties between returning offenders and their families, with the goal of improving their transition back to their communities and their families and reducing the chances they will re-offend. On Saturday, members of approximately a dozen offenders' families will be participating in this program, and its efforts to positively re-unite families with their incarcerated loved ones.

The PREP Program is being piloted in several Indiana correctional facilities to promote healthy relationships through special classes for incarcerated offenders. "The program promotes family values, and helps develop offenders' communication and problem-solving skills, which in turn will build a stronger family support base and improve the chances for successful re-entry," says Commissioner J. David Donahue.

The program will conclude Sunday evening with the departure of the guests at 4:30 pm. Miami Correctional Facility and Branchville are two other Indiana facilities that have completed a weekend with PREP. "I feel this is another positive program for our facility", said Superintendent Thomas Hanlon, "my staff and I are proud to be a part of a program that not only motivates incarcerated persons to improve themselves, it provides guidance and hope to families preparing to receive the offender back home once they complete their period of incarceration."

About the Facility: The Correctional Industrial Facility was established in 1985 and presently houses 1410 offenders with a medium custody level. The offender's average age is 37 years and average length of incarceration is 4 years. There are approximately 400 employees.

**Additional Media Contact:**

Tim Horan

Public Information Officer

Correctional Industrial Facility

765-778-8011 (office)

765-425-6189 (cell)

[thoran@doc.in.gov](mailto:thoran@doc.in.gov)

**About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.